

Environmental Approvals in Other Jurisdictions

Ontario is enhancing environmental protection and public transparency while improving service to business by modernizing its environmental approvals program. Similar efforts have already been implemented in many other jurisdictions.

The Ministry of Environment has examined leading jurisdictions worldwide as a means of identifying best practices in environmental approval processes related to electronic service delivery and public transparency. The following table summarizes the jurisdictions examined to date and the findings.

What we looked at

- **Proponent Self-Registration** – Can businesses register specified activities with the applicable environmental regulator in that jurisdiction?
- **Public Information Available Online** – Can the general public use self-service tools to access environmental approval information on demand, without submitting a request to the regulating authority?
- **Electronic Submission** – Can businesses submit applications electronically for environmental permits, approvals and registrations? Do submissions go directly to the appropriate environmental authority for review?
- **Approvals Issued With a Multi-Media Approach** – Does the jurisdiction issue a single environmental approval for a specific site that covers multiple “media”, including air, waste and wastewater activities?

Jurisdictional Scan: Our Findings

Jurisdiction - CANADA	Proponent Self-Registration	Public Information Available Online	Electronic Submission	Approvals Issued with a Multi-Media Approach
Ontario, Current	No	Yes	No	No
Ontario, Proposed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alberta	Yes	Yes	No	No
British Columbia	Yes	No	No	No
Nova Scotia	No	No	No	No
Saskatchewan	No	No	No	No

Jurisdiction - USA	Proponent Self-Registration	Public Information Available Online	Electronic Submission	Approvals Issued with a Multi-Media Approach
Alabama	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
California	Yes	No	No	No
Colorado	Yes	Yes	No	No
Connecticut	Yes	No	No	No
Delaware	Yes	Yes	No	No
Florida	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Georgia	Yes	Yes	No	No
Illinois	No	No	No	No
Indiana	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Kansas	Yes	No	No	No
Kentucky	Yes	No	No	No
Louisiana	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Maryland	Yes	No	No	No
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michigan	No	Yes	No	No
Minnesota	Yes	Yes	No	No
Mississippi	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Missouri	Yes	Yes	No	No
Nebraska	Yes	No	No	No
New Jersey	Yes	No	Yes	No
New York	No	No	No	No
North Carolina	Yes	No	No	No
Ohio	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Oregon	Yes	Yes	No	No
Pennsylvania	Yes	Yes	No	No
Tennessee	Yes	Yes	No	No
Texas	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Vermont	No	Yes	No	No
Wisconsin	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Jurisdiction - INTERNATIONAL	Proponent Self- Registration	Public Information Available Online	Electronic Submission	Approvals Issued with a Multi- Media Approach
Hong Kong	No	No	Yes	No
New South Wales, Australia	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Scotland	Yes	No	Yes	No
United Kingdom	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

Have a question? Want to share your feedback? Contact us: approvals.modernization@ontario.ca

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